

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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### Opening Statement Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings

### H.R. 2227, the Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2017

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Over the past few years, we have all witnessed the havoc that sophisticated cyber attacks can wreak on our nation.

The string of high profile attacks includes Sony, Yahoo, the OPM data breach, and even efforts to impact our elections.

These attacks jeopardize American's safety and privacy, and they cost untold millions of dollars. These attacks affect both the public and private sector, and bad actors repeatedly target the federal government. Those attacks often succeed because federal computer systems are so outdated that they cannot implement network defenses as basic as encryption.

The federal government spends nearly \$60 billion sustaining its existing Information Technology systems. When agencies are forced to spend nearly 75 percent of their IT budgets to maintain legacy computer systems, they have fewer resources to modernize them. Agencies cannot afford modern technologies that are increasingly commonplace.

Many federal agencies do not use cloud computing to help secure computer networks and increase our ability to deliver services to the American people. The Modernizing Government Technology Act, introduced by my colleagues, Representatives Hurd and Kelly, is a critical step to help improve the federal government's IT systems.

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation would provide mechanisms and much-needed funding for agencies to speed-up the process of moving from legacy IT systems to cutting-edge technologies. It also would provide needed reporting requirements to ensure that agencies are acquiring modern technology in a cost effective way.

HR 2227 is an important step toward defending our nation's critical IT infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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